

Amos Barrett

Corporal in Captain David Brown's Concord Minute Man Company

"We at Concord heard that they (the British) was acoming. The bell rong at 3 0'clock for alarum as I was then a minnit man I was soon in town and found my Capt. And the rest of my Company at the post. It wont long before thair was other minit Compneys. One compney I beleave of minnit men was raisd in a most every town to stand at a minits warning. Before sunrise thair was I beleave 150 of us and more of all that was thair. We thought we wood go and meet the British. We marched down to ward L[exington] about a mile or mile and a half and we see them acoming. We halted and stayed till they got within about 100 rods (170 ft.) then we was ordered to about-face and march before them with our drums and fifes agoing and also the British. We had a grand music. We marched into town and then over the North Bridge a little more than half a mile and then on a hill not far from the bridge whair we could see and hear what was agoing on. What the British came our after, was to destroy our stores that we had got laid up for our army. Thair was in the town house a number of intreanchen tools witch they carried our and burnt them. At last they said it was better to burn them in the house and sot fire to them in the house, but our people begd of them not to burn the house, and put it out...when we was on the hill by the bridge their was about 80 or 90 British came to the bridge and their made a halt, after a while they begun to tair the plank of the bridge. Mager Buttrick said if we wair all of his mind he wood drive them sway from the bridge, they should not tair that up. We all said we wood go. We then want [weren't] loaded we wair all ordered to load—and had strict orders not to fire until they fired first, then to fire as fast as we could...Captain Davis had got, I believe, within rods of the British when they fired 3 guns one right after the other. I see the balls strike in the river on the right of me – as soon as they fired them they fired on us – their balls whistled well. We then was all ordered to fire and not kill our own men. It is straing that thair warnt no more kild but they fird to high. Captain Davis was killed and Mr. Hosmer and a number wounded. We soon drove them from the bridge. When I got over, there was 2 lay dead and another almost dead. We did not foller them. There was 8 or 10 that was wounded and running and hobbling about looking back to see if we was after them...After a while we found them a marching back toward Boston, we was soon after them. When they got about mile half to a road that comes from Bedford and Billerica they was way laid a grait many killd when I got thair a grait many lay dead and the road was bloody."